

# TELEGRAPH HILL SEMAPHORE

*Publication of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers*

NUMBER FORTY ONE

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT CURTIS BALDWIN

"The object of this organization shall be to beautify and improve Telegraph Hill; to encourage a friendly association among the Hill residents; to perpetuate the historical traditions of the Hill's place in San Francisco history; to insure Telegraph Hill's constructive participation in the development of our city; and to represent the property owners and residents in community problems which may arise."

The above is nothing new, revolutionary or even 're-structural.' It is article Number III of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers By-Laws. And it is the succinct but encompassing statement of the reasons we are together. It deserves occasional re-reading and rededication.

We realize the necessity of our organization when we think of the changes that would have overwhelmed the Hill and its surroundings during the past 17 years if it had not been for this group. The forces that seek to exploit this unique real estate are tireless and everywhere at once--like the winds in San Francisco, which, if a sun deck is protected from all points of the compass, blow straight up or down. Rome once had seven hills. Today a tourist stands in a canyon while the glib guide announces that he is on the summit of one of the hills of Ancient Rome. It would be a very different city had there been a Palatine Hill Dwellers Association for the past 2000 years. To prevent a similar dwarfing of our Hill is one of our purposes and we may have to stay active for at least another nineteen hundred and eighty-three years.

No problem on any section of the Hill is too small for our attention. No problem anywhere in San Francisco or the Bay Area is too large for us. However, I feel that our first and finest efforts should be for matters directly affecting the Hill and its environs. The Northern Waterfront Market Center, while beyond our boundaries, would have a tremendous effect on Telegraph Hill. Transamerica would/will cast a morning shadow over the southern reaches of the Hill. Sunny patios and decks will become potential mushroom beds if this Twentieth Century Corporate Pharaoh's pyramid is erected. Broadway is our southern doorstep and we cannot be proud of it nor of our looking the other way while the tawdry mess festers there. These and smaller matters such as the Filbert street steps and a stop sign at Lombard and Stockton are our concern. The Southern Crossing and the defacing of our California landscape with billboards, while eminently worthy of our opposition as San Franciscans who care, should be checked by such city or area-wide organizations as exist for these purposes.

As an organization, The Telegraph Hill Dwellers is not truly representative of Telegraph Hill Dwellers. The Dwellers (capital D) are smart, are vocal, are energetic, but we lack the support of many, many property owners and tenants within our boundary lines. One of our prime objectives must be an increase of our basic membership among our neighbors. We are the framework and we will try as individuals and as an organization to attract a broader membership. New faces and new brains are essential to keep the Dwellers going.

This year the Telegraph Hill Dwellers has a strong, resourceful group of officers and directors; the committee chairmen, named in this bulletin, are people who are going to get the necessary things done.

Keeping Telegraph Hill a-pace with the 1970's is our assignment. Welcoming what is good, Warring against what is bad, Wishing always for the collective wisdom to make the choice between good and bad will require Constant Vigilance and hard work. We are up to it.

For another year - - we will have to run like hell to stay where we are.

COMMITTEES

The following committees have been named by President Curtis Baldwin to serve this fiscal year. The first named to be chairman.

NORTHERN WATERFRONT	---Robert Katz	#2 Whiting St.	Yu 6-1890
SOCIAL	-----Mary O'Gara	104 Alta St.	982-6767
	Larry Schwartz	34 Montague Pl.	362-7221
	Joyce Hemming	480 Vallejo St.	Yu 6-1492
MEMBERSHIP	-----Melba Bloise	1136 Kearny St.	421-6450
	Pat Delaney	1256 Montgomery St.	Do. 2-0274
TRANSPORTATION	-----Gerry Cauthen	3559 Jackson St.	346-4011
PARKING AND TRAFFIC	---George Atashkarian	218 Union St.	989-5286
VISUAL IMPROVEMENTS	---Allen Lathrop	291 Union St.	781-4751
	George Raad	315 Chestnut St.	392-0693
	Bernie Bour	48 San Antonio Pl.	781-4732
	Bobbie Blume	303 Chestnut St.	781-1374
	Marvin Levin	228 Filbert St.	362-8514
LEGAL	-----John Harman	1403 Montgomery St.	362-5733
BULLETIN EDITOR	-----Ken Evers	255 Chestnut St.	421-2671
CONSERVATION	-----Tobey Bloxam	3 Montague Pl.	392-0675
PLANNING	-----Gerry Cauthen	3559 Jackson St.	346-4011
	( tree planting )	Dorothy Erskine	233 Chestnut St.
ZONING	-----Carol Schwartzback	1255 Montgomery St.	397-7994
	George Raad	315 Chestnut St.	392-0693
CRIME	-----June Coyle	479 Vallejo St.	781-3579
VOTING RECORDS	-----Nancy Katz	2 Whiting St.	Yu-6-1890
FUND RAISING	-----I. D. Blume	303 Chestnut St.	781-1374
LIASON	-----Gerry Cauthen	3559 Jackson St.	346-4011

THE EARLY DAYS OF THE TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS - WHAT WERE THEY LIKE ?

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BY BERNARD BOUR

In 1962 there was a serious effort to deal with some of the parking problems by identifying Hill resident cars with a THD Decal for the windshield (details in Bulletin No.14 of September 1962).

A prolonged struggle over height limits over the Northern waterfront, in which the THD position finally prevailed in 1963, brought a notable Planning Department study that pointed to the Hill and Coit Plaza as the essence of San Francisco and one of the most spectacular urban areas in the world.


1964 saw a well-financed effort to exceed the 40-foot height limit on Union Street by 9 to 13 feet, in a new apartment building planned for 350 Union Street on the site of the former Schaeffer School. The Dwellers opposed and defeated this attempt. Another notable success came in 1965 with the defeat of a proposal to place a garage under Washington Square (running account in THD bulletins). Dues that year finally advanced from the former \$1 to \$2 a year.

TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES

Dues to belong to the Telegraph Hill Dwellers are only \$2.00 per member. This rate was established by your Board of Directors in 1964- since then, in spite of ever increasing costs, we have managed to keep our dues at this low level.


We need your support - Please send in your dues to - - - - -  
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BOB KATZ REPORTS ON NORTHERN WATERFRONT MATTERS

"PLANNERS" RETAIN 3-ACRE LOOPHOLE

The recently enacted Waterfront Zoning Ordinance includes valuable sloping height limits east of the Hill; Buildings closest to the Hill can go to 84', between the Hill and the Embarcadero the limit is 65', and closest to the water there is a 40' limit. However, any developer owning more than 3 acres may exceed the 40' and 65' limits for 3 years to come! The pretext given for this staggering loophole was that the City must honor the agreement it signed with the International Market Center. The THD petitioned the Board of Supervisors to rewrite the 3-acre provision in such a way that at least no developer other than the Market Center could exceed height limits. Supervisor Pelosi, Feinstein and Mendelsohn supported this request and the Board unanimously referred the 3-acre section back to the Planning Commission for revision.

On May 21, we asked the Planning Commission to limit the 3-acre privilege to one year. This would protect the City's agreement with the Market Center (which automatically expires on Dec. 31, 1970). Commissioner Kearney supported the 1-year limit. Commissioner Ritchie also supported our proposal, adding that the Market Center had broken their promises by tearing down the historic Seawall Warehouse without notice and is not entitled to consideration in excess of their contract with the City. Commissioner Fleishhacker then moved to retain the existing 3-acre privilege unchanged and was, of course, supported by Julia Porter. This resulted in a tie vote, leaving the ordinance unchanged. Throughout the debate, Planning Director Jacobs opposed the 1-year limitation proposed by the THD. We are reminded of David Brower's recent remark that "Planners are not opposed to disaster as long as they plan it themselves."

The matter now goes back to the Supervisors.

PORT APPROVES U.S. STEEL MEGASTRUCTURE

On May 20, the Port Commission endorsed the U. S. Steel Complex which will rise to at least 400 feet next to the Ferry Building. The main argument for this megastructure was that it would bring the Port increased revenues and that U. S. Steel would build a new passenger terminal without financial outlay to the City. It now turns out- as we had predicted- that the \$15,000,000 passenger ship terminal will have to be paid out of Port revenues. Since revenues from the entire U. S. Steel Complex will be approximately \$1,000,000 per year, it will take 15 years just to repay the capital, plus 12 more years to repay interest at 10%. The Port would receive no income from the entire megastructure for 27 years to come! In exchange for this financial fiasco, San Francisco would authorize a Super Fontana Structure on our waterfront!

Zoning for this area is now under submission before the Board of Supervisors.

Write your protests to Board President Dianne Feinstein.

PORT COMMISSION MINUTES KEPT SECRET

The THD recently requested a set of minutes of the Port Commission meeting on the U. S. Steel Project. In response, Port Director Miriam Wolff replied that the mailing of the minutes would result in "great additional expense" and that the law does not require the furnishing of such minutes. This flimsy pretext will not fool anyone since other City agencies (such as the Planning Commission) always furnish minutes on request, even though the law does not specifically require it. The THD replied to Miss Wolff's letter as follows:

"Now that you have discontinued sending out the minutes of your meetings as an economy move (Sic!), we hope that you will also abandon the \$15 Million new passenger terminal. These two economies should go a long way towards restoring confidence in the sound financial management of the Port."



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ANOTHER TAVERN IN THE TOWN ???

After polling a representative sample of our members who live in the area, whose attitudes ranged from grave concern to open hostility towards any new activity which would spread the Grant Avenue Scene to a residential neighborhood, President Curtis Baldwin has written a letter to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control protesting an application for a Beer and Wine license at 576 Vallejo St.

There being no shortage of licensed drinking establishments in this area the denial of this application would work no foreseeable hardship on the drinking public.



## The Refectory

MENU

Sirloin . . . . .	4.25
Teryiaki Sirloin. . . . .	4.50
Combo . . . . .	5.50
Beef Kabob. . . . .	2.95
New York. . . . .	5.25
Filet . . . . .	4.95
Petit Filet . . . . .	3.75
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